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### Newsletter E-mailed to You

The newsletter is published bimonthly, in February, April, June, August, October and December. If you wish to have this newsletter sent directly to your e-mail address, when it is published, please follow the instructions below.

Send an e-mail addressed to **listproc@ucdavis.edu**. Leave the Subject line empty. In the body of your message put in the following: sub ucdavisbeenews <your first name (without these “brackets” around it)> <your last name>. On the next line, insert two hyphens, not underscores (under-lines). If I were subscribing, it would be:  
**sub ucdavisbeenews Eric Mussen**  
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The hyphens are there to tell the subscription software on the server not to be confused by any following information that occurs, such as a “signature frame” (or signature block, as I call it).

If you wish to be removed from the list, then you do the same thing, but instead of **sub**, you use **unsub** or **signoff**, then the name of the list and your first and last names followed on the next line by hyphens.

### CA Apiary Board Active

On Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, CA Secretary of Food and Agriculture, A.G. Kawamura introduced the members of the new Apiary Board and spoke to the necessity of having a robust honey bee industry in California. In his youth, A.G. kept bees for a few years, making and selling honey, until American foulbrood put him out of business. He understands beekeeping very well.

Next Mary Ann Warmerdam, Director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation, spoke on behalf of her Department and its concerns about protecting pollinators. Mary Ann was introduced to beekeeping when she was the bee committee contact with the California Farm Bureau, quite a while ago. However, Charlie Duncan made such an impression on her that we have an advocate in that agency. Ann Prichard, who is the lucky recipient of all the letters I write to DPR about pesticide applications for potentially bee-toxic chemicals, was in attendance, also. While it may seem frustrating, at times, trying to convince the regulatory personnel to see things our way, they are aware of our concerns and are doing what they can, given the constraints under which they operate, to protect our bees.

Secretary Kawamura installed the five new members of the Apiary Board. The members, as seen seated at the table from left to right, are: Steve Godlin, Jackie Park-Burris, Leroy Brant, Richard Ashurst, and Lyle Johnston (photo Page 7). The first official business of the board members was to elect a chairperson and vice chairperson by secret ballot. Jackie will serve as Chair and Steve as Vice chair.

Gerry Miller attended the meeting and is assuming the role of the Supervisor of Apiary Projects for CDFA.

The members then discussed issues of immediate concern and listed issues that require attention, soon. Of immediate concern is the fact that Secretary Kawamura has a deadline for generating regulations pertaining to keeping bees in specific regions of the citrus belt, where highly compatible varieties of citrus (Clementines and Murcotts) were planted very near each other. Honey bees transfer pollen between the varieties, and the hopefully seedless citrus can become very seedy.

Not waiting for any official word, creative citrus growers are trying some solutions for the problem. First, they have placed bee-proof netting over much of the Murcotts (least number of acres) to prevent cross-pollination. Second, they have begun using x-ray examination to spot and cull mandarins with very many seeds. And, finally, they have removed the word “seedless” from their packaging and advertising. California has some very touchy rules about calling something seedless, so it is easier to avoid that hassle.

As might be expected, quite a bit of time was devoted to discussing financial matters. Beekeepers in California and coming to California are going to be faced with two separate fees. The first is the county registration fee. Currently on the books at \$10

in each county in which an apiary is located in January, or upon arrival from out of state, two strong opinions were expressed. Should the fee be raised significantly to ensure that the county ag commissioners are willing to make an effort to get as many beekeepers registered as possible? Or, should the fee remain low so that more individuals will be coming forth to pay, voluntarily?

Then there is the question of assessments, which really wasn't addressed at length at this meeting. At the end of the last assessment period, beekeepers were paying \$0.33 per colony (of a maximum of \$0.35 written into the regulations), if operating over 40 colonies. That included a five year addition of \$0.03 per colony to support the Africanized honey bee research of Rob Page, when he first arrived in Davis, years ago. At the end of the five years, not only did the beekeepers let the “surcharge” sunset, but they let the whole assessment program expire.

The \$0.33 assessment was bringing in about \$200,000 when the program ended. Usually, the beekeepers received \$20,000 of that to fund bee research. The rest went to CDFA and county coffers. So, the program was costing about \$180,000 to operate. Almond pollination was around \$25 per colony at that time.

Now, almond pollination rentals are around six times greater than they were, then. If the assessment fee was raised proportionately, the rate would be around \$1.80 per colony. I did not hear anyone suggest such a rate. However, if the rate were \$1.00 per colony, not far out of line with other states into which beekeepers take their bees, the state should collect at least \$1 million. Even if the state and county overhead doubled, to around \$360,000 a year, that would leave the Apiary Board with \$640,000 to either spend on research or direct toward other uses, as long as

those uses were deemed appropriate by the Secretary of Agriculture. That amount of money can be very influential in either the world of science or the world of beekeeping.

A prime concern was a review of the Apiary Protection Act. In order to be sure not to conflict with the California open meeting laws, Chairwoman Park-Burriss selected a committee of beekeepers, who are not on the board, to individually review the regulations and make suggestions for improvement to Eric Mussen for possible incorporation into the new set of regulations that will have to be passed through the legislature before they can be implemented. The suggested changes will be reviewed by the board members at their next meeting. Those board meetings are open to the public and are announced by CDFA before they are held.

In the future, the board members will have to determine how to stagger their terms of office, so that new individuals are added to the board while enough serving members remain to ensure continuity.

Their list of concerns to be addressed also included: *Nosema* and *Varroa* control, pesticides, tests for nutrition and pathogens, and a bee haven for honey bee R&R (a favorite of Secretary Kawamura).

### Shame on P&G

The product wrapper is golden with that well-recognized Face (Mr. Pringles) and printed "Pringles," as well as a honey dipper, dripping some honey near the words "HONEY BUTTER." The product is Baked Wheat Stix: Crispy Cracker Sticks (Artificially Flavored).

So, where is honey positioned on the detailed ingredients list? Let's see. "Wheat flour, palm oil, sugar, butter (cream, salt,

lecithin), margarine (palm oil, soybean oil, canola oil, corn oil, glyceryl monostearate, carotene, natural flavors, mono- and diglycerides) and salt. Contains 2% or less of: isomeric sugar, yeast, rice starch, natural and artificial flavors, trisodium phosphate, monosodium glutamate, disodium inosinate, egg, disodium guanylate and Sucralose. Contains wheat, milk, soybean and egg ingredients. Distributed by Proctor & Gamble, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, U.S.A. Product of Thailand. Questions? Comments? 1-800-568-4035."

Honey is not on the list!

On the "10 Pak" box we learn that each packet of sticks has less than 100 calories [90, actually]. We also see the honey dipper, again, quite large with the words "HONEY BUTTER" next to it. On the back of the box we find the dripping dipper, again, AND a frame of uncapped honey comb. On the comb is written: "Honey. Butter. Sound like a mouth-watering combination? Try the rich and scrumptious, honey butter-flavored PRINGLE STIX and ask yourself: How do they pack so much taste into such skinny Stix? HONEY BUTTER PRINGLES STIX – just one of the deliciously fantastic flavors ready to burst from the box in these all-crunchy, all-crispy, cracker STIX!"

So, does Proctor & Gamble expect sugar, isomeric sugar and Sucralose<sup>®</sup> to combine to make honey? This is a blatant "rip off" of the consumer, by using honey's highly respected name and visual image to sell a product, even though honey isn't even listed as an ingredient. To me, this is consumer fraud. If you agree, they gave us their toll free number to discuss the issue. It might be worth a few minutes to see what they have to say. Once, again, 1-800-568-4035.

**California State Beekeepers' Association**  
**119<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
**November 10-14, 2008**  
**Harrah's, S. Lake Tahoe**  
**15 Highway 50**  
**Stateline, Nevada**  
**1-800-455-4770**  
**www.harrahstahoe.com**

You really have to “be on the ball” this year to take advantage of the monetary specials offered by the Association and the hotel. If you pre-register promptly with Patti Johnson, the convention will cost \$80 for the primary member and \$45 for additional family members, as long as Patti receives the payment by October 30, 2008. After that (or at the door) the registration fees increase to \$120 for the primary member and \$60 for each additional member attending. When you register for the convention, don't forget to pay your association dues. The old membership year expires October 31, 2008. A pre-registration form is available at: [www.californiastatebeekeepers.com](http://www.californiastatebeekeepers.com).

Harrah's is offering two choices of rooms: the closer rooms at Harrah's at \$89 plus tax per night, or across the street in Harvey's newly refurbished Mountain Tower for \$59 plus tax per night (room prices nearly double after those special nights – such as the following Friday and Saturday nights, but we can include Friday and Saturday at our reduced rates). It would be a good idea to reserve your room well in advance. To take advantage of the reduced room rates, you must make your reservations, at **1-800-455-4770**, on or before Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. When you make your reservation, be sure to ask for **Group Code S11KEEP**. Check In is at 4:00 PM and Check Out is at 12:00 Noon.

## 2008 Tentative Convention Program

### Monday, November 10

3:00 PM Board of Directors' Meeting

### Tuesday, November 11

8:00 AM Registration and Exhibits Open  
8:30 Opening Ceremonies  
10:00 **Exhibitors/Beverage Break**  
10:20 Exhibitor Introduction/Door Prizes  
10:30 “Continuing Education Credits” – **Larry Lima**, Dos Palos, CA  
11:00 “Spearheading Researchers” – **Eric Olson**, Yakima, WA  
11:30 “Colony Health Study at WSU” – **Steve Sheppard**, Washington State University  
12:00 Noon **Lunch**  
1:30 PM “Colony Health Study at WSU: Lab Reports” – **WSU Researcher**  
2:00 “Colony Health Study at Tucson Bee Lab” – **Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman**, USDA  
2:30 “Update with Platinum Advisors: Citrus Mutual Issue, CSBA Bills, Apiary Board” – **Holly Fraumani and Gene Brandi**  
3:00 “Citrus Mutual Issue and Apiary Board” – **Gerry Miller**, Supervisor of Apiary Projects, CDFA  
3:15 **Exhibitors/Beverage Break**  
3:35 Exhibitor Introduction/Door Prizes  
3:45 “As I See It” – **John Miller**, Newcastle, CA  
4:00 “Queen Management” Panel Discussion – **Glenda Wooten, Valeri Severson, & Ray Olivarez**  
6:30-8:00 New Members' Reception

Wednesday, November 12

- 7:00-9:00 AM Sioux Honey Breakfast  
8:00 Registration and Exhibits Open  
9:00 “Feeding Overwintered Colonies in Preparation for Almond Pollination” – **Frank Eischen**, USDA, Weslaco, TX  
9:45 “The National CAP Project: A Research and Extension Initiative to Reverse CCD” – **Keith Delaplane**, University of Georgia, Athens  
10:15 **Exhibitors’/Beverage Break**  
10:35 Exhibitor Introduction/Door Prizes  
10:45 “Insights into *Nosema ceranae* Infections in Honey Bees” – **Rob Cramer**, Montana State University  
11:15 “American Beekeeping Federation” – **Zac Browning**, Idaho Falls, ID  
11:30 “American Honey Producers” – **Kenny Haff**, Mandon, ND  
11:45 “Proposed Honey Board” – **Jerry Brown**, Haddam, KS  
12:00 Noon **Research Luncheon**: “A Comprehensive Look at Viruses and *Nosema* in the U.S.” – **Jerry Bromenshenk and Dave Wick**, Missoula, MT  
2:00 PM **Research Auction**  
4:00 Free Time  
7:00 **Resolutions Meeting** – General Session Hall  
7:30 **Research Committee Meeting** – General Session Hall

Thursday, November 13

- 8:00 AM Registration/Exhibits Open/Start Silent Auction  
8:30 **CSBA Annual Business Meeting**  
10:20 **Exhibitors’/Beverage Break**  
10:35 Exhibitor’s Introduction/Door Prizes  
10:45 “Management of a Successful Commercial Beekeeping Business: How They Do It” Panel Discussion – **Steve Park, Lyle Johnston, Norm Cary and Richard Ashurst**  
11:30-1:30 **Ladies Auxiliary Business Meeting and Luncheon**  
12:00 Noon **Lunch**  
1:00 PM Exhibits Close  
1:30 “New PIB Board” – **Buddy Ashurst**, El Centro, CA  
1:45 “Stock Importation Protocols: Introduction of *A.m. ligustica* and *A.m. carnica*” – **Sue Cobey**, UCD  
2:15 “Honey Bees’ Anti-viral Strategies” – **Michelle Flenniken**, UC San Francisco, Monterey Bay  
2:45 “New Mite Treatments” – **Frank Eischen**  
3:15 “Thermo-regulation Inside a Honey Beehive” – **Bob Madsen**, University of Montana, Missoula  
6:30 **Social Hour – No Host Bar and Silent Auction**  
7:30 **Annual Banquet, Awards and Auction**

Friday, November 14

- 8:00 AM CSBA Board of Directors’ Breakfast Meeting

## 2009 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. has announced the essay topic and rules for the 2009 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest. There will be three cash prizes for the national winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$750; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, \$500; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, \$250. Each state winner, including the national winners, will receive an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

The Essay Topic is: **The Dance Language of Bees.**

Honey bees possess the ability to communicate the distance and direction of resources to their nest-mates. They employ a symbolic dance language in which the position of the sun is symbolically represented by gravity, and a trained observer can watch their dances and predict where they are foraging. The use of symbolic language by an insect has made them one of the most studied animals. This year's essay contest invites participants to learn about the honey bee's dance language, how it was discovered, how it works and how it provides colonies the ability to find and exploit floral sources.

Sources of information: Karl Von Frisch was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1973 for his work with insect communication. His classic text is *The Dance Language and Orientation of Bees*, (1967) Harvard University Press. There are dissenters to Von Frisch's findings. See "Anatomy of a Controversy: The Question of a 'Language' Among Bees," (1990) Columbia University Press. The results of scout bees leading nest-mates back to a new food source can be demonstrated by a beekeeper.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources all are evaluated.

Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a "Resources" or "Bibliography" list.

Note that **honey bee** is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

Rules: 1. Contest open to active (dues paid) 4-H Club members only. Previous winners of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place **at the national level** are not eligible, but previous state winners are.

2. Requirements (failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay)

- a. Text to be typewritten or computer-generated, double-spaced, 12 point Times or similar type style, on one side of white paper, following standard manuscript format.
- b. Write on designated subject only.
- c. All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
- d. The length of the essay, proper, is to be 750-1,000 words, not including endnotes, the bibliography or references, or the essayist's biographical sketch.
- e. The essayist must include a brief biographical sketch, including date of birth, gender, complete mailing address and telephone number on a separate page.

3. Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research – 40%; (b) accuracy – 30%; (c) creativity – 10%; (d) conciseness – 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic - 10%.

4. Completed California essays must be mailed in order to be received on or before Friday, **February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**, by Dr. Eric Mussen, Entomology Department, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616. The winning state essay will be forwarded to the national competition and the results should become available on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. All national entries become the property of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essay will be returned (save a copy for your Record Book before you submit the final text).



2008 Apiary Board members (from left): Vice-chair, Steve Godlin, Visalia; Chair, Jackie Park-Burris, Pale Cedro; Leroy Brant, Oakdale; Richard Ashurst, Westmorland; and Lyle Johnston, Madera.

### Black & Light Candles

Would you like to give a unique bee candle to your friends or relatives? At the Web site: [blackandlightco.com](http://blackandlightco.com), you will find some very interesting candles. If the fact that they are not made of beeswax turns you off, then read no further.

The fragrance-free, white candles are three-inch diameter cylindrical columns, either four or six inches tall. The burn time is 60 hours for the shorter candle and 90 hours for the taller ones. The inner core of a special wax burns down, while the outer wax cylinder remains intact and “glows” with the deepening light. The shorter candles come with bee appliqués in colors described as butternut, aqua, black or gold. The tall candle comes only in black bees.

Holly Eve creates the candles, and Dan Steed hires mentally and physically challenged employees to place the candles in special, creative packing for shipment. The boxes are as luxurious as the candles.

If you wish to see or order the candles, you can go to the Web site. Otherwise, Dan can be contacted at 1129 Woodmere Avenue, Suite G, Traverse City, MI 49686 [(877) 280-9103], or you can contact him by e-mail at his Web site.

### Field Trials of Native Plants

University researchers tried experimental plantings of several little-used California plants to see which ones might be best suited to use in landscapes where there was little to no irrigation.

Some were not frost-tolerant and others had inappropriate growth characteristics. However, some of the plants “advanced” to the next step are flowering plants that are likely to attract pollinators. Here are some you might wish to try: a strain of California lilac “Valley Violet” (*Ceanothus maritimus*), serpentine columbine (*Aquilegia eximia*) and rosy coral bells (*Heuchera rosada*).

The full article on this experiment by S. Karrie Reid and Lorence R. Oki can be found in Volume 62, Number 3, of California Agriculture, produced by the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

### Bee School

It would be a real long drive for Californians, but others read this newsletter. The Pfeiffer Center for biodynamic agriculture and nutrition is sponsoring an organic beekeeping workshop titled: Preparing Hives for Winter.

Instructor Chris Harp is an organic beekeeper and bee doctor with 17 years experience. He is co-founder of HoneybeeLives in New Paltz, NY. He currently cares for approximately 160 hives in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Vermont for small farms and private clients. Chris is focused on the well-being of the colonies he nurtures, and on raising public awareness and knowledge of the honey bee.

This workshop is intended for all levels of beekeepers who already have some experience keeping bees. The one-day session will be held from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The content will

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include an explanation and demonstration of the latest sustainable/organic methods. The fee is \$85.

I believe the workshop will be held at the Pfeiffer Center, 260 Hungry Hollow Road, Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977. For more information you are encouraged to contact the Center at: [info@pfeiffercenter.org](mailto:info@pfeiffercenter.org).

Sincerely,

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